

**From:** Nathan Alderman  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/26/02 12:18pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

If I committed some significant white-collar crime, say, embezzlement; if, during the course of my subsequent trial, I made misleading (if not false) statements and instructed my attorneys to provide falsified evidence meant to bolster my case; if I was in fact, found guilty of my crime upon preponderance of the overwhelming evidence, yet continued to insist that I had done absolutely nothing wrong...

... would it then be just for me to dictate the terms of my own punishment?

And would it be just for that "punishment" to officially absolve me of guilt, and, in exchange for spending the merest portion of the wealth I had accrued through my illegal and harmful practices, place me in a position to reap enormous future benefits and continue the illegal practices that I had been tried for in the first place?

In my opinion, this is the situation at hand in the Microsoft case. The resolution to their crime may be uncertain at this time, but they have been found indisputably guilty in a court of law-- a court for whom they showed nothing but contempt, through repeated and clumsy attempts to mislead the court with badly doctored evidence and vague testimony.

It runs counter to the fundamental nature of the American Justice System that Microsoft, through its vast wealth and political and public influence, should be allowed to escape justice, much less to profit from its crime with a newly established stranglehold on the education market. I salute the Department Of Justice's desire to save taxpayer money by seeking a quick resolution to this case. But I would argue that the eventual financial and economic cost to the average American citizen will ultimately be much greater if Microsoft's proposed remedy is put into effect.

I hereby plead with the court and the Department of Justice not to allow Microsoft to profit from its crimes. For the callous disrespect they have shown to our justice system, and for the vicious and predatory business practices of which they have been found guilty, they deserve the harshest and most humbling of penalties.

And they do not, I believe, have any right to decide what that penalty should be.

Sincerely,  
Nathan Alderman  
San Antonio, Texas